

# MULTI-MILLION COLUMBIA STEEL CO. EXPANSION PLAN RUMORED FOR CITY

## Water Mains Suit Against City Looms

### SUBDIVIDER SAYS HOMES SALE HALTED

The City of Torrance may be faced with a suit totaling more than \$212,000 by the end of this week for failing to provide free water mains and piping to the Truman-Browne Development, it was revealed today.

Through attorney Vernon Spencer of Spencer and Harris in Inglewood, Truman-Browne is planning to file suit to recover losses sustained on his 150 home tract development due to alleged city interference.

Spencer said that most of the tract, located on Sepulveda, West of Hawthorne, has been ready for occupancy since Sept. 24.

Torrance claims "that under ordinance 385, Truman-Browne must pay nearly \$25,000 before mains will be installed."

Spencer disclosed that the California Water Service Company had been willing to put in free mains until Torrance informed the Company that all mains would revert to the city.

"Since Torrance has stalled the project, Truman-Browne will not only lose the \$25,000," said Spencer, "but also \$93,000 in interest, additional payroll and other miscellaneous."

Spencer disclosed that the entire expense was necessary because a lack of water equipment forced the developer to keep his completed homes unoccupied.

"My client also may lose an additional \$87,000 if veterans cannot occupy the homes by Nov. 15," attorney Spencer pointed out. "This is the one per cent the Veterans Administration deducts if the houses are not finished on time."

"Once the suit is filed," said Spencer, "we will file an amendment for \$87,000 if the suit is settled by Nov. 15."

On last Tuesday, prior to Spencer's revelation of a proposed suit against Torrance, City Manager George Stevens informed this reporter that a misunderstanding between the city and Truman-Browne was in the wind.

"The contention arises over who should pay for the installation of water mains," said Stevens.

He disclosed that if Torrance (Continued on Page 12)



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## Three New Mills, Open Hearth Due

Rumors that Columbia Steel is about to launch an expansion program which will amount to millions of dollars in buildings and equipment, and which virtually will double the payroll of the plant, were being circulated in Torrance yesterday.

It is understood that the company, a subsidiary of U. S. Steel Corp., will announce its big expansion program Nov. 15, 1951.

To be located within the boundaries of the City of Torrance, on Western avenue, the new expansion program is expected to call for erection of a rod mill, a wire mill and a big open hearth.

The program now being launched in Torrance had been intended for the \$100,000,000 aluminum plant built during World War II by the Reconstruction Finance Corp. for the Aluminum Corporation of America, at 190th street and Normandie avenue, within the corporate boundaries of Los Angeles.

Columbia Steel Co. acquired that plant for about \$20,000,000 a few years ago, and a conversion program was launched.

However, the idea of converting the aluminum plant was abandoned, and it was decided to build new buildings just east of the present Columbia plant in Torrance.

The rumor was halted by those who heard it as being the "best news we have heard in Torrance for years."

## Talks Reopened to Avert Food Strike



NO, THIS ISN'T A VOLCANIC CRATER. It's the oil sump dump in the vicinity of homes in the Pacific Hills. Residents have been complaining that trucks such as the one pictured here tear up the dirt roads in the community and cause dust to form a thin coat on carpets and floors of the homes. Arrow points to the

truck dumping an oil mixture. Little particles at the right in the picture are oil souvenirs which have been dumped into the water by the trucks and tankers which make regular bus-schedule runs into the area.

—Pressfoto.

### CLERKS VOTE WALKOUT ON CONTRACT

Whether or not the 375 food clerks of the Harbor Area who are members of Retail Clerks Local No. 905 will strike to enforce their demands for a contract reopening for wages on May 1, 1952, probably will depend upon the outcome of two meetings scheduled for Wednesday, October 31, and Thursday, Nov. 1, it appeared today.

The food clerks, meeting in San Pedro Monday night, gave Haskell Tidwell the authority to use "all legal means" to secure a contract such as the clerks union demands. The only point of importance unsettled is the question of the six months' reopening, the employers as represented by the Harbor Area Employers' Council already having promised wage increases to the extent that the regulations of the Wage Stabilization Board allow. It is estimated the increase would amount to \$3.60 per week per clerk.

However, it was revealed yesterday, the union will endeavor to use the "divide and conquer" method to get their six-months' contract before they will call out the clerks. By this is meant that they will endeavor to get employers to sign individual contracts aside from the organization.

The Employers' Council, in a (Continued on Page 12)

## Minstrel Show Goes on As 15 Pickets Parade

A solidified feeling of anger existed in the hearts of Torrance residents after fifteen pickets paraded in front of the local high school during the minstrel show last Friday and Saturday. Who they were and where they came from is hard to determine even at this point.

Many community-spirited citizens who had spent hundreds of hours rehearsing for the affair weren't too happy when outsiders were charging discrimination against Negroes.

In the meantime local civic and club leaders had one thing to be jubilant over. The musical extravaganza had cleared more than \$700 during its two-day run, it is estimated.

All of the money will be turned over to the YWCA building fund.

**YWCA DISAGREES**

Ironically enough, the National YWCA joined with the Los Angeles County Human Relations Committee and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in condemning minstrel shows in which white people impersonate Negroes.

From a local standpoint, there is no question that the comical acts were produced first of all to produce money and secondly to entertain members of the community. Certainly no discrimination was intended.

"I think the picketing was disgraceful," Emma Roberts, chairman of the affair informed the Press, "particularly when there are no Negroes living in Torrance."

**HEIGHT SAYS**

Dorothy Height, one of the pro- (Continued on Page 12)

## Blount Shuns Open Meet; in Star Chamber

Evidently the Torrance City Council is beginning to frown on meetings that are open to the public. Tuesday's session opened with six items on the agenda. In less than one-half hour, the meeting was over. No mention was made that Truman-Browne, a sub-divider is planning to file a suit totaling more than \$200,000 against the City of Torrance through attorney Vernon Spencer of Spencer and Harris in Inglewood.

Willis Blount was absent at the open public meeting.

When the regular meeting disbanded, some public officials seemed to remain behind. A Torrance Press reporter thinking that perhaps an intermission had been called instead of an adjournment returned to the City Hall.

There he was greeted by Willis Blount who came out of the Mayor's office. A quick glance showed that the rest of the council members including (Continued on Page 12)

## Local Boy Hurt in Korea War

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Antokol of 17208 Della Ave., North Torrance, received word from their son Pfc. Robert A. Antokol, 21, that he had been wounded in the Korean War on September 29.

Young Antokol's letter arrived in Torrance on Sept. 31. Mrs. Antokol informed the Torrance Press.

He told his parents that he was injured and was evacuated. "Just don't worry," he wrote, "only thing I hate is getting well again and having to return to the front."

Pfc. Antokol was one of the first employees of the Western Union Office in Torrance when that concern opened

## PACIFIC HILLS SUMP OPERATES ILLEGALLY

Evidence continued to show this week that the operator of the oil sump dump in Pacific Hills is doing so illegally, since he does not have the property fenced, according to Jacob Joseph, Torrance City Engineer.

Within 500 feet of the dump, there is a sign posted by the Torrance Police Department: "No dumping by order of ordinance 7."

So far the Police Department and other city fathers cannot seem to agree as to whether the sign applies to this oil sump. To date oil tankers and trucks have been seen in the area.

Residents of Pacific Hills particularly protest the presence of the sump because of the dusty road created by the moving back and forth of heavy trucks.

At the Council meeting on Oct. 9, members of that body voted unanimously after a motion by Councilman Nick Drale to order the City Attorney to close the dump if the owner has no license.

A check with City Hall records showed that the South Bay Disposal Service is the only licensed dump in the city of Torrance. Why hasn't it been closed? Pacific Hills owners wonder. So far there has been no answer to this question.

Residents of Pacific Hills started moving into this area around March, 1950, records show.

"At the time, there was no activity where the oil sump is located," it was pointed out by (Continued on Page 12)

## Son in Korea On Battlefront With Cavalry

Pfc. Jimmie T. Sims, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett Sims, 21250 So. Main, Torrance, with the First Cavalry Division in Korea, recently joined the 1st Cavalry Division on the battlefield in Korea.

A veteran unit of the Korean war, the division led the U.N.'s first large-scale offensive against the Communists — the spectacular breakthrough northward last September from the Taegu perimeter.

Sims, former student at Banning High school in Wilmington, Calif., is in the 1st Cavalry's 7th Regiment. He entered the Army in November 1950 and previously was stationed at Camp Roberts, Calif.

## Police Show to Be Held Nov. 10

A week from this Saturday evening, the Torrance Police Officers Association will sponsor two police shows—one at seven and one at nine, Douglas C. Cook, president of the organization, disclosed today.

Cook said that all professional entertainment will be presented. Billie Nelson, of stage, screen, and radio, will be the master of ceremonies.

Cook said that as last year, all proceeds from the show will go toward financing youth activities for the TAPS, an organization of approximately 100 youngsters which is sponsored by the Police Department.

## Install New City Signals

Torrance blossomed out with two sets of highway electrical signals this week.

The stop and go lights were placed at two locations on Torrance Blvd. — one at Cota and the other at Arlington.

These signals, according to the city manager, were suspended in the center — saving the cost of putting up four poles and four lights.

He said that this was an experiment. The total cost of the two-four-way signals was approximately \$2000.

The city manager also disclosed that a study is now being made of the Five Points hazard. If the suspended type of signal is successful at the two present locations, then it is very likely that the Traffic Control Commission will recommend a similar type of signal for the Five Point corner, it was explained.

Prior to the installation of the electrical signals, a mechanical clock-like signal was used. The Police Department had to wind these signals every two days. In the evening the signals were picked up and stored. They were brought out each morning at six a. m. to protect the children on their way to school.

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## City Continues To Look for New Dump Site

Where the new city dump will be located is still a matter of conjecture today. City Manager George Stevens reported that although \$15,000 has been set aside in the current budget for a new location, no specific area has been named to date.

Stevens said that the city is looking for an area in an industrial (Continued on Page 12)

### Today's Definition

**BORE:** One who talks about himself when you want to talk about Yourself.

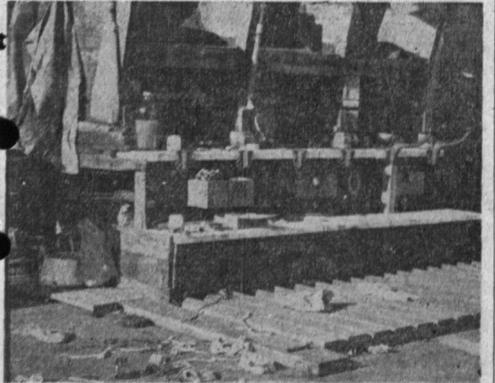
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Mrs. Elnora Boll, 2521 W. Carson street, had so many calls on her little classified ad, she will have to work day and night to catch up with it all.

Here's what brought the results:

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JOE DAVIS couldn't believe his eyes when he saw his shine stand last Monday. Someone had broken into it and scattered the shoe shiner's equipment. He asked that parents discourage this type of vandalism because he is sure that whoever did it wasn't conscious of the damage. "It must have been hoodlum kids," Davis said.



PICKETS PROTESTING minstrel show at Torrance High School last Friday and Saturday night received a cool reception here. Parents who love children were appalled to find one of the pickets disturbing a sleeping baby by walking the line with it. If minstrel shows are wrong, the above scene certainly didn't convince anyone. It solidified the community in support of this type of entertainment.

Community Chest Workers — Congratulations to You! — See Story — Page 2